

the **KALIFORNSKI**

Since
1979

NEWSLETTER OF THE SLAVIC-AMERICAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION INC.

P.O. Box 226, Watsonville, California 95077

(A NON-PROFIT, NON-RELIGIOUS, & NON-POLITICAL ORGANIZATION)

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Ann Backovich
21 Jefferson Street
Watsonville, CA
95076

June 11, 1994

Dear S.A.C.O.

Thank you for the plaque recognizing my service to S.A.C.O. I am very proud to have been a part of it, and pleased that S.A.C.O. continues. I would be remiss, however, if I did not acknowledge those who served with me on the board. Their efforts were invaluable and are to be as much, if not more, appreciated than my own. No one could do this job alone.

I am truly sorry that I have not been able to attend recent functions, but I hope ^{to} change that (no promises, however). I wish the current board, particularly Ron, great success. I also hope that other members, especially those who have not held office before (or in sometime) will consider volunteering in the future. I for one would be very excited to actually see a problem with too many people vying for a turn to leave their mark on this organization.

Thank you again and best wishes.

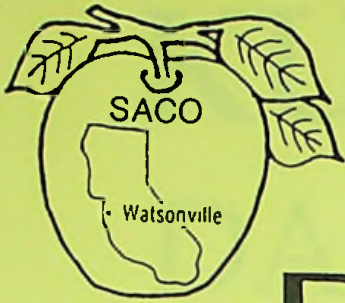
Respectfully,
Harold Farris

HAROLD FARRIS

Past President - 1992 & 1993

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Slavic - American Cultural Organization

BARBECUE

Corralitos Community Center
— Padres Park —

Watsonville, Calif.



SUNDAY, JULY 17

\$ 10.00 per person
\$ 5.00 youngsters
12 yrs & younger



GET ACQUAINTED TIME12:00 Noon
SERVING..... 1:00 p.m.

T A M B U R I T Z A M U S I C for the day will be
R O D I C H ' S B A L K A N A L L * S T A R S

B-B-Q TRI TIPS...MACARONI with MEAT SAUCE
TOSSED GREEN SALAD - ROLLS
COFFEE and DESSERT



KUSANOVICH

DANCE THEATRE

JABUKA • APPLE

Kristin and Michelle Kusanovich choreographed and performed a suite of duets about the former Yugoslavia. They are both modern dancers but they combined different Balkan folk dance steps with Modern dance to create the unique and powerful dance called "JABUKA (apple)."

The performance was held on June 17 and 18 at the Western Stage Theater at Hartnell College in Salinas.

The evening was a unique event because the Western Stage usually presents plays and musicals. This dance event was well attended and drew many friends and relatives from the Watsonville area.

The dance consists of five duets, each set to music from different regions of the former Yugoslavia.

It traces a progression from a peaceful community of farmers to the current fear and strife that have now become a reality for the people of the old country and a horror that we all must reckon with.

Inspired by the dancers' grandparents, Mary Kusanovich and the late Mark Kusanovich of the island of Brac, the first duet grows out of the realm of memory, from a childhood of orchards and apples on Freedom Blvd. in Watsonville. This lighthearted tender dance is structured around the content repetition of daily chores and tasks. Apples roll across the stage bountifully, just barely grazing the dancers' rhythmic footsteps.

The next duet finds the dancers in flux between calm, serene embraces and quick animal-like tableaux of alertness, as their inability to sleep grows.

The third duet finds the two dancers in the midst of the horror that has shifted from an outer reality to their personal reality. Dynamic, compelling and thought-provoking, the partners fight both side-by-side and against each other in a chaotic world of war.

Next the stage brightens and a "kolo" dance begins. The dancers partake in this gladly, searching for joy and their community. This duet features the intricate grafting of croatian, serbian and bosnian dance steps.

Finally the dancers create a contemplative and beautiful dance of prayer which finishes with their arms being thrust open by an invisible presence. A barrage of desperate calls and echoes begins, with one dancer singing/speaking fragments of folk songs and the other answering as if from across a valley. One falls into a heap and the second dancer, on her way to tend the first is also hit, ending in an entwined embrace. In the silence and the darkness that follow, only the sound of invisible rolling apples can be heard, like thunder, as they plummet across the empty stage.

Kristin Kusanovich is the Artistic Director of Kusanovich Dance Theatre, a dance company based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Her work has been performed in New York, Denver and San Francisco. She is currently choreographing East of Eden and Jesus Christ Superstar at the Western Stage Theatre in Salinas, CA which will be presented in July and August. Michelle and Kristin have worked together all of their lives choreographing and performing. Both trained at the Willow Glen Dance Center in San Jose with JoAnn Black. Their parents, Mark and Patricia Kusanovich own San Jose Florist and their Nona, Mary Kusanovich lives in Aptos.

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S

AT GRADUATION TIME, SACO COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS WERE
AWARDED TO THE FOLLOWING OUTSTANDING STUDENTS:

JOSIP ODZAKson of
Josip & Hortensia Odzak
SHAWN MAC DONALD.....son of
Jayleen MacDonald and
grandson of
John & Shirley Ivelich

EACH RECIPIENT RECEIVED \$250 TOWARD THEIR COLLEGE EDUCATION

RAFFLE PRIZES ARE NEEDED for the BAR-B-Q

Last year the table was filled with wonderful donations such as plants, wine, fruits, vegetables , canned jams and jellies, etc.

EVERYONE LOVES WINNING A GIFT TO TAKE HOME